

Fathers supported the right to bear arms by everyone, not just by the militia, in order to help secure the good order of the community. Private gun ownership is an important right that should be preserved.

I urge my colleagues to defeat the Lowey amendment, which would take funding away from important rural health care programs to fund a program that has engaged in unneeded and inappropriate political advocacy.

TRIBUTE TO THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Smithsonian Institution, which will be honoring the contributions Hispanics have made in the arts and sciences, and their role in our Nation's history during a special evening at the New York Coliseum.

The event is among the many to commemorate the Institution's 150th anniversary, which includes the traveling exhibition, "America's Smithsonian," being viewed by millions of citizens of New York City and millions of their fellow Americans in 11 additional cities across the Nation.

Under the leadership of Smithsonian Institution Secretary J. Michael Heyman, the Institution has increased its efforts to bring the museum closer to Hispanics by reaching out to the community through traveling exhibitions, on-line home page, educational kits featuring Hispanic artists, musical recordings, and a variety of publications.

"America's Smithsonian," the 150th anniversary exhibition, represents the cultural contributions of all Americans, including Hispanic-Americans. The special evening at the exhibition in the New York Coliseum celebrates Hispanics by bringing together Hispanic curators, academics, corporate representatives, public affairs professionals, community leaders, elected officials, and members of Spanish-language media and the mainstream press.

From the earliest arrivals on our eastern shores to the established settlements in the West and the Southwest, the large Hispanic communities in the north and south, and the diverse Caribbean representations, all clearly demonstrate the role Hispanics have played in our country's earliest history and development to the present day. Hispanic music, literature, visual arts, customs, and way of living are very much a part of this Nation's culture.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Smithsonian Institution in its 150th anniversary celebration for its efforts to reach out to the Hispanic community by expanding its collections and exhibitions in its museums, and traveling exhibitions like "America's Smithsonian," which give an opportunity to the Nation's flagship museum to include Hispanic contributions to this Nation's culture in the arts, science, and history.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3755) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, recently the House passed the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill for the 1997 fiscal year. Within this bill is funding for two key programs under the auspices of the Centers for Disease Control [CDC]. Specifically, the Chronic and Environmental Diseases Program and the Childhood Immunization Program—both of which have been essential to Washington State's ability to address public health crises.

In 1993, the State of Washington was the site of an E.coli 0157:H7 outbreak of epidemic proportions. Approximately 600 individuals displayed symptoms that were attributed to contact with contaminated meat. More than 150 people were hospitalized and, tragically, three died. This experience helped elevate the importance of food safety to a national level. The ability to identify foodborne diseases, educate the public, food handlers, and inspectors, and conduct thorough surveillance is dependent on a joint partnership between Federal and State officials. The work of Epidemic Intelligence Service [EIS] officers from the CDC has been invaluable in identifying foodborne diseases.

Recognizing the fiscal constraints that Congress has set for itself, I commend the committee for its decision to increase funding for the Chronic and Environmental Disease Prevention Program by almost \$12 million for the 1997 fiscal year, bringing the total up to \$155 million.

In addition, southwest Washington recently came through a measles outbreak that resulted in 37 cases over a 2½ month period. Twenty-four percent of the reported cases occurred among preschool children. While public health officials were exemplary in tracking down the level of exposure, this recent outbreak reinforces the need for a proactive approach to childhood immunization. Recognizing this, I commend my colleagues for their decision to level fund the Childhood Immunization Program at \$467 million.

While every item in the Federal budget should undergo scrutiny, these two programs are of tremendous benefit to the people of Washington State and the public officials who work on a daily basis to preserve and promote preventive health measures. I thank Chairman PORTER and his staff for their hard work on this bill and I commend my colleagues for joining me in ensuring this legislation's passage.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS POST 500

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Jewish War Veterans Post 500 of Co-op City in the Bronx is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. This is an organization of men who have given so much to their country in time of war and now give to their communities. They help their fellow veterans who are hospitalized in the nearby Veterans' Administration Hospital, bringing them newspapers to read and company for when the day gets long. They organize fund raising events to support their charitable works and march annually in the Memorial Day parade to honor the heroic sacrifices made by fellow veterans in all wars.

We owe our liberty to these men and all others like them. This year we also celebrate the centenary of the National Jewish War Veterans, making this a truly auspicious time. As a patron member of Post 500, I am proud and happy to join my neighbors in celebrating these anniversaries.

COMMEMORATING THE 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 41st Anniversary of the United States Air Force Academy—one of the pillars of military education, producing some of the Nation's finest officers to ever serve and protect the American people.

On April 1, 1954, President Eisenhower signed Public Law 325, the Air Academy Act. On June 24, Secretary of the Air Force Harold Talbott announced that Colorado Springs would be the permanent site of the U.S. Air Force Academy and Denver would serve as the temporary site. The U.S. Air Force Academy began in my district at Lowry Air Force Base, July 27, 1954, and proceeded to build in strength in order to receive its first class of cadets of July 11, 1955. This date marks the official dedication and opening of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

When Dedication Day arrived, 307 young men who would make up the Class of 1959 marched onto the field in precise formation amidst the tears of the gathered 4,159 military and civilian dignitaries, public officials, the foreign attaché corps, cadets from West Point and Annapolis, press, and parents. These cadets marched with pride to music played at the U.S. Air Force band, while proceeding underneath a glorious formation of B-36 bombers flying overhead.

After the ceremonies concluded, the Denver Chamber of Commerce hosted the guests at a down-home chuck wagon buffalo barbecue at the Red Rocks Park Amphitheater—a classic finish to a historic event.

As Coloradans, we are exuberant and proud that our State was selected as the location of the temporary and permanent sites of the U.S.